

## MEMORANDUM

June 3, 2014

To: Council Members  
From: Casey Joe Carl, City Clerk  
Subject: Proposed Charter Amendment—  
Municipal Filing Fees

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On May 5, the Minneapolis Charter Commission transmitted a proposed charter amendment pertaining to municipal filing fees, which was referred for public hearing and consideration by the Intergovernmental Relations Committee at its regular meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2014. If adopted, that proposal would become effective January 2, 2015, concurrent with the voter-approved Plain Language Charter Revision, and would increase the filing fees for municipal offices as follows:

- (1) Mayor, \$250;
- (2) Council Member, \$100;
- (3) Board of Estimate & Taxation Member, \$20; and
- (4) Park & Recreation Commissioner, \$50.

Municipal filing fees in cities of the first class are established under Minnesota Statutes § 205.13. Home rule charter cities may increase the statutory filing fee through the charter amendment process, which has been done in the cities of St. Paul and Rochester. The original filing fee set by statute was \$10; however, that amount was increased in 1967 to \$20, and has not been adjusted since that time—either by the State or by the City of Minneapolis through its charter. Additionally, state law provides that a candidate may also submit a petition in lieu of the filing fee, as described in Minnesota Statutes § 204B.11. The petition in lieu of a candidate filing fee must have the valid signatures of the required number of eligible voters of the particular district (500 signatures or five percent of the total number of votes cast in the election district at the preceding general election for that particular office). For comparative purposes of the current filing fees in first class cities, see the following table:

CITY	Mayor	Council	Est. & Taxation	Park Commissioner
Minneapolis	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
St. Paul	\$500	\$250	N/A	N/A
Rochester	\$50	\$50	N/A	N/A

Based on inflationary rates since 1967 when the \$20 statutory filing fee was last adjusted, that same filing fee in 2014, almost fifty years later, would be approximately \$142.

The Charter Commission is hopeful the City Council and Mayor will agree this matter should be handled administratively; that is, adopted with a unanimous (13-0) vote of the City Council with the approval of the Mayor. However, the Charter Commission has already conducted a public hearing on this proposal and is prepared to submit the question to the electorate in November as part of the regularly scheduled general election, if necessary. A chart depicting the corresponding timelines for adoption—either administratively or by referendum—is attached for reference.

Please let me know if there is additional information I may provide on this matter.

Regards.